

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-47 are pending, of which claims 1-15, 17-25, 30-36, and 39-47 have been amended. Applicant submits that the claim amendments are merely for clarification and/or to correct informalities noted by the Applicant, and are not to overcome prior art or any other objections. In particular, Applicant disagrees that any one or combination of the references cited by the Office discloses a system of control panels as described and recited in the claims.

Applicant's amendments and remarks after Final are appropriate under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because they address the Office's remarks in the Final Action, and thus could not have been presented earlier. In addition, the amendments and remarks should be entered to place the case in better form for appeal.

35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 15-17, 25-27 and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,740,336 to Wakisaka et al. (hereinafter, "Wakisaka"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a system of control panels that are configurable for any one of several different multifunction print devices each having a different combination of functions, the system of control panels comprising "a control panel configured for a multifunction print device" and "at least an additional control panel configured for a different multifunction print device that has a different combination of functions than the multifunction print device" where

“the various selectable controls of each control panel grouped by functional relation into control groups, and arranged within a similar region on each different control panel.”

5 Wakisaka does not show or disclose the system of control panels for multifunction print devices recited in claim 1. For example, Waskisaka does not describe “a system of control panels that are configurable for any one of several different multifunction print devices each having a different combination of functions”, or “a control panel configured for a multifunction
10 print device” and “at least an additional control panel configured for a different multifunction print device”, as recited in claim 1.

 The Office cites Fig.4 of Wakisaka for a control panel of a multifunction device (*Office Action* p.3). However, Wakisaka only shows one control panel for one type of multifunction device with no reference to any such system of
15 control panels for multifunction print devices, as recited in claim 1.

 Applicant describes a system of control panels and illustrates examples of three separate control panels of the system (*i.e.*, control panels 200, 300, and 400) in Figs. 2-4 of the pending Application. Each of these exemplary control panels are divided into four functional regions as shown (*i.e.*, a fax region 202,
20 a print region 204, a copy region 206, and a scan region 208), and are configurable for different multifunction print devices each having a different combination of functions. For example, control panel 200 shown in Fig. 2 includes selectable controls in each of the fax region, print region, copy region, and scan region of the control panel.

25 The additional control panel 300 shown in Fig. 3 has a different combination of regions with selectable controls in the print region, copy region, and scan region of the control panel which corresponds to a multifunction print

device having print, copy, and scan functions. The additional control panel 400 shown in Fig. 4 also has a different combination of regions with selectable controls in the print region and the copy region of the control panel which corresponds to a multifunction print device having print and copy functions.

5 Accordingly, claim 1 along with dependent claims 2-4 and 6 are allowable over Wakisaka for at least the reasons described above, and Applicant respectfully requests that §102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 15 recites “a control panel configurable for any one of several
10 different multifunction print devices each having a different combination of functions”. As described above in response to the rejection of claim 1, Wakisaka does not show or disclose a control panel that is configurable for different multifunction print devices, as recited in claim 15. Wakisaka only shows one control panel for one type of multifunction device.

15 Accordingly, claim 15 along with dependent claims 16-17 are allowable over Wakisaka for at least the reasons described above, and Applicant respectfully requests that §102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 25 recites “a system of control panels that are configurable for
20 any one of several different multifunction devices each having a different combination of functions, the system of control panels comprising multiple control panels”, and where “a control panel for a multifunction device has the selectable controls arranged within the one or more multiple regions and an additional control panel for a different multifunction device has different
25 selectable controls arranged within the one or more multiple regions”.

As described above in response to the rejection of claim 1, Wakisaka does not show or disclose a system of control panels that are configurable for

any one of several different multifunction devices where the system of control panels includes a control panel for a multifunction device and an additional control panel for a different multifunction device, as recited in claim 25. Wakisaka only shows one control panel for one type of multifunction device.

5 Accordingly, claim 25 along with dependent claims 26-27 are allowable over Wakisaka for at least the reasons described above, and Applicant respectfully requests that §102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 36 recites a method in which multiple regions of control panels
10 are configurable for any one of several different multifunction devices, and producing the control panels with selectable controls associated with the several different multifunction devices.

As described above in response to the rejection of claim 1, Wakisaka does not show or disclose control panels that are configurable for any one of
15 several different multifunction devices, as recited in claim 36. Wakisaka only shows one control panel for one type of multifunction device.

Accordingly, claim 36 along with dependent claims 37-40 are allowable over Wakisaka for at least the reasons described above, and Applicant respectfully requests that §102 rejection be withdrawn.

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35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

A. Claims 8, 10, 12-14, 22-24, 30-31, 33-34, 42-43, and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Wakisaka (*Office Action* p.9). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

25 B. Claims 5, 9, 18, 20, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Wakisaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,765 to Tomita

(hereinafter, "Tomita") (*Office Action* p.13). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

C. Claims 7, 19, 29, 35, 41, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Wakisaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,185 to Altrieth, III et al. (hereinafter, "Altrieth") (*Office Action* p.15). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

D. Claims 11, 21, 32, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Wakisaka in view Altrieth, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,107 to Morisaki (hereinafter, "Morisaki") (*Office Action* p.18). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

All of the claims rejected under §103 are dependent claims which ultimately depend from one of the allowable independent claims 1, 15, 25, or 36 as described above in response to the §102 rejections of the independent claims. It is axiomatic that any dependent claim which depends from an allowable base claim is also allowable. Accordingly, each and every claim depending from an independent claim 1, 15, 25, or 36 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above in response to the rejection of the independent claims, and may be allowable over the cited references for independent reasons.

Further, any combination of Wakisaka, Tomita, Morisaki, and/or Altrieth does not address deficiencies of Wakisaka as described above in response to the §102 rejections of the independent claims 1, 15, 25, and 36. For example, neither reference individually describes "a control panel configured for a multifunction print device" and "at least an additional control panel configured for a different multifunction print device that has a different combination of functions than the multifunction print device", as recited in

claim 1. In addition, no combination of the cited references teach “a system of control panels that are configurable for any one of several different multifunction print devices”, as recited in claim 1. Each of the cited references only show one control panel for one type of a device and would not be
5 combined to produce control panels with selectable controls associated with the several different multifunction devices, as recited in claim 36 for example.

Accordingly:

Claims 5 and 7-14 are allowable over the combination(s) of references
10 by virtue of their dependency upon allowable independent claim 1;

Claims 18-24 are allowable over the combination(s) of references by virtue of their dependency upon allowable independent claim 15;

Claims 28-35 are allowable over the combination(s) of references by virtue of their dependency upon allowable independent claim 25; and

15 Claims 41-47 are allowable over the combination(s) of references by virtue of their dependency upon allowable independent claim 36.

Applicant requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn, and that each of the dependent claims be allowed.

Conclusion

Pending claims 1-47 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

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